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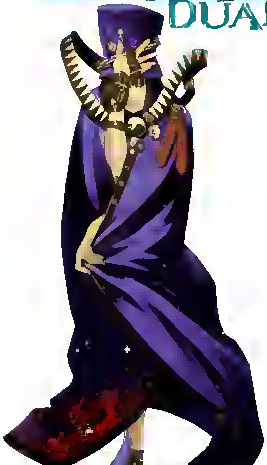

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Losers' Circus Vol. 2
Concept by Kouhei Kadono
Art by Masayuki Takano

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第七話 Chapter 7

YOU WANT US TO MAKE YOU SCREAM SOME MORE?
HELL, HERE YOU GO CALLIN' US TO SOME EMPTY CLASS-ROOM...
YOU LOOK PRETTY DAMN GOOD, KITAMURA.
ESPE-CIALLY CONSIDER-ING YOU JUST GOT OUTTA THE HOSPITAL.
SURE
IN RETURN FOR ALL THE FUN...
AND THEN...
THAT TOO.

第七話　愚か者のゲーム
Chapter 7: Fool's Game

EEP...
To. Akiyuki-kun
A LOVE LETTER ?!
WHY IS THIS IN MY DESK?
WH-WH-WHAT NOW?
GUESS I'D BETTER TELL SENSEI..
UGH! WHAT AM I THINKING ?!
SHE'LL JUST MAKE FUN OF ME!
COME ON, LEMME SEE!
FLUMP
OKAY, BETTER FIND SOME-PLACE SAFE
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN LOOK AT THIS HERE
GLANCE
GLANCE

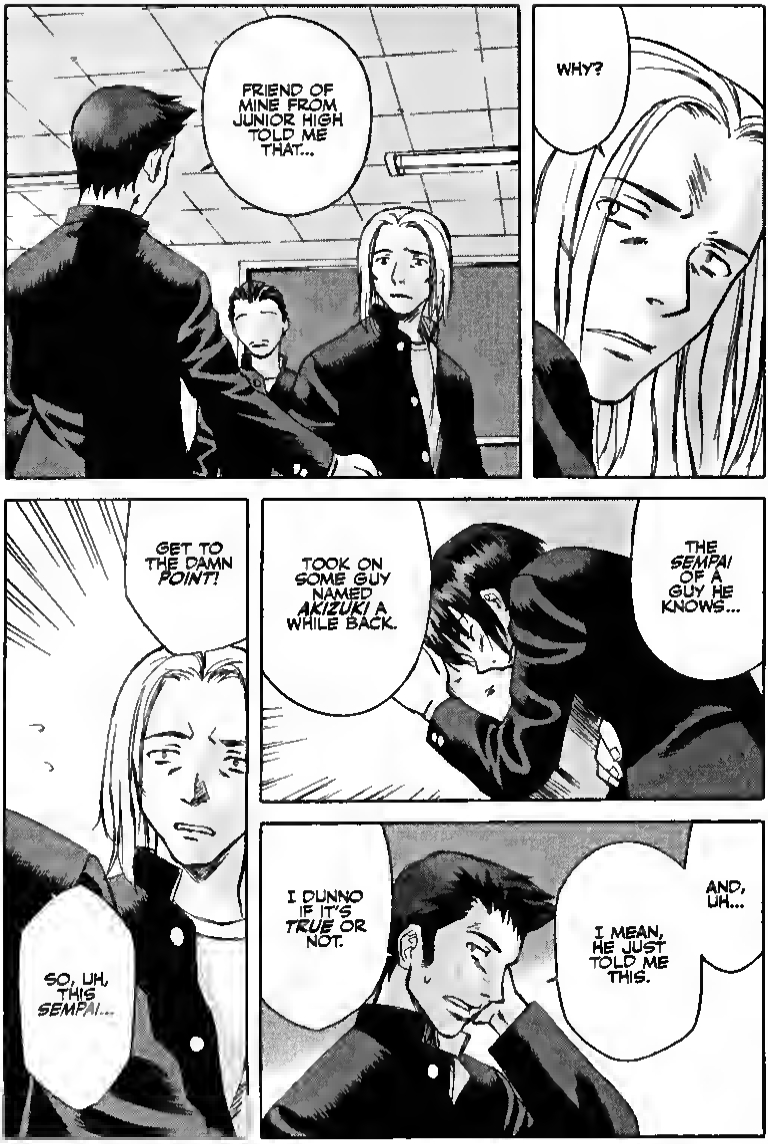
SO THE ONLY RATIONAL EXPLANATION IS THAT THIS HAS TO BE SOME SORT OF PRANK
DID THE SAME THING HIM-SELF!
BUT WHO?
V.
"AKIZUKI-KUN: I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU FOR A WHILE.
YOU ALWAYS LOOK SO COOL. I LOVE HOW YOU'RE THE SILENT TYPE."
WELL, THAT DOES RULE OUT SOME SORT OF MIX-UP..
THIS IS ADDRESSED TO ME?!
I'll be waiting in the science lab at lunch.
Please come alone! ♥
HMMM...
SCIENCE LAB

WHA-WHAT'S... GOING ON HERE?
AWKWARD
UH... UM...
EH?!
EXACTLY WHAT THE LETTER SAID.
DAMN. REALLY? THAT'S A SHAME..
UH...I-I'M STRAIGHT, AND, UH...
IT'S JUST ...
N-NO ...
I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU?
TWITCH
WHAT?

AND HERE I WAS BEING SO SERIOUS
UNH... HAH...
COUGH
WH-WHY?
DON'T SPOIL ALL OUR FUN.
YANK
HEY, I ONLY HIT YOU ONCE.
UH.
UH.
UNH...!
WHACK!
RIGHT?!

HEH HEH HEH.
RIGHT?
WE'VE ALL GOT STRESS.
DUDE..
UH...

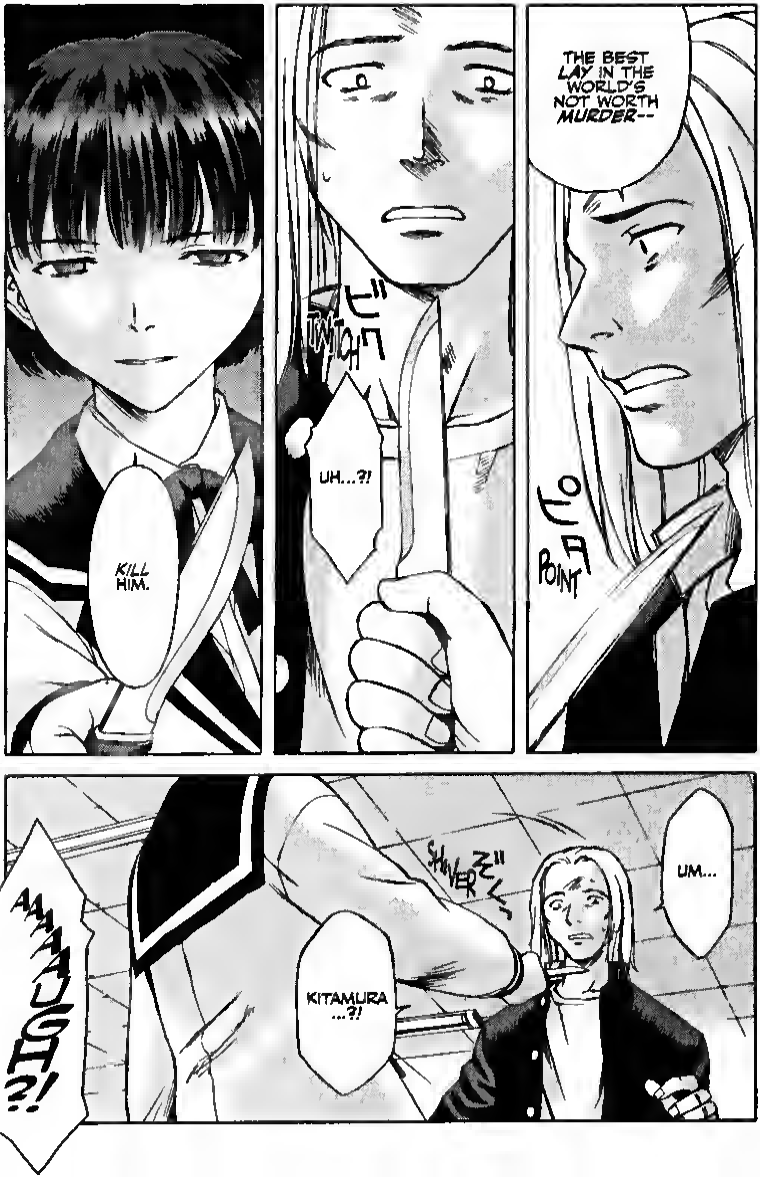
I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D BE SUCH A PUSSY.
WHEN SHE TOLD US TO BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF HIM
MIGHT AS WELL...
BREAK HIS ARM WHILE WE'RE AT IT.
HEY, WAIT, MAN--


FRIEND OF MINE FROM JUNIOR HIGH TOLD ME THAT...
WHY?
THE SEMPAI OF A GUY HE KNOWS...
TOOK ON SOME GUY NAMED AKIZUKI A WHILE BACK.
AND, UH...
I MEAN, HE JUST TOLD ME THIS.
I DUNNO IF IT'S TRUE OR NOT.
GET TO THE DAMN POINT!
SO, UH, THIS SEMPAI...

I DUNNO WHY HE DIED, BUT...
BUT ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE GOT MIXED UP WITH HIM, AND THEY ALL WOUND UP DEAD.
HE...HE DIED.
WHAT THE...?
YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE ALL THAT CRAP?
NAW, I DON'T BELIEVE A WOR--
W-WAIT, I'VE HEARD STORIES LIKE THAT TOO.
WHAT IF THEY'RE TRUE?

NO.
AWRIGHT, WHAT-EVER.
GUESS THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY, THEN.
.....
TCH.
KITA-MURA...?!
!!

!?
KILL HIM.
HUNH?!
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!


THE BEST LAY IN THE WORLD'S NOT WORTH MURDER--
POINT
UH...?!
KILL HIM.
UM...
KITAMURA ...?!
SHIVER
AAAAUGH?!

ACK... AH...!!
YANK
"
"
YANK
YOU LITTLE .....!
WHOOSH!!
LE' GO!!

HMPH.
!?

!!
GRULLNCH
GUH!
THUD

D-D-DON'T
SHOOT
WHAAAM!

IF YOU DON'T DO IT ...
AH...
SLIP
HE'S GONNA KILL YOU.
WHA...?
THEY ALL WOUND UP DEAD.

……!!
BEEP...
SQUEEZE

AH.
LUNGE!!!
TAP!!!
!!
TAP!
THWACK!
AHHH!

ARE YOU...
AN ENEMY OF THIS WORLD?

UHH...
BORN A LOSER...
SLUMP
DIE A LOSER.
CHUNK

HISS
HISS
!!
FWIK
GOOD-BYE.

BLOOOSH!!

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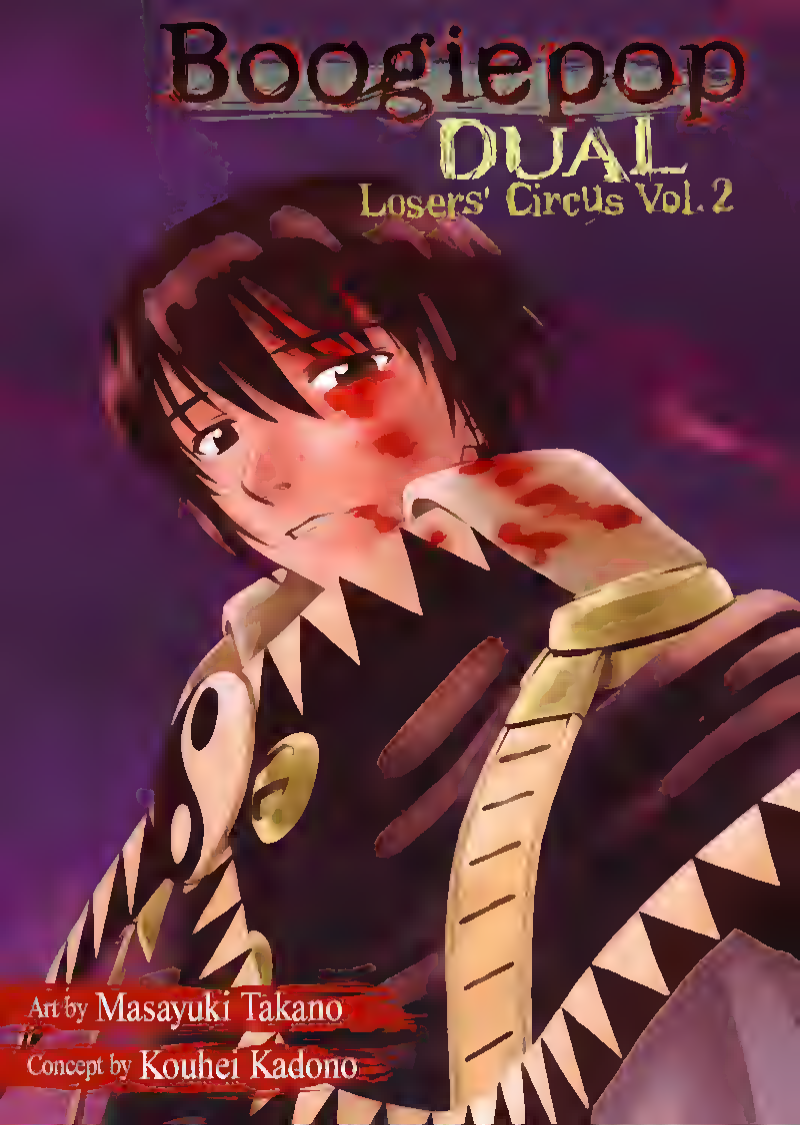

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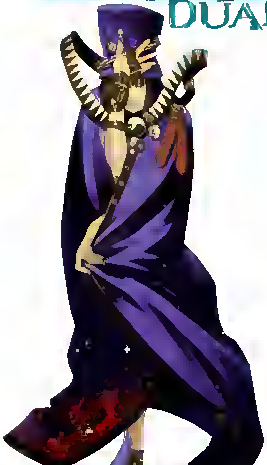

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第八話 Chapter 8

第八話　絶望のリフレイン

Chapter 8:　Refrain of Despair

HEY!
WHY IS YOUR ROOM ALWAYS SUCH A DISASTER?
HONESTLY...
I'VE GOT A SYSTEM GOIN' HERE
EVERYTHING IS *RIGHT* WHERE I CAN REACH IT.
UH-HUH.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT...
I BROUGHT THIS BACK.

SO, WHAT'D YA THINK?
OH, THANKS.
HERE.
.....
OH.
A LITTLE OVER MY HEAD
IT WAS ...
WELL...

IT'S JUST... WELL...
NOPE, NOT AT ALL.
SO, IS HE ...
FAMOUS OR SOME-THING?
I GUESS THERE'S JUST NO USE IN YOU READING IT.
NOT AT ALL.
I GUESS..
FOR EXAMPLE ...
VERY INTERESTING.
IT WAS...
!
!! GLP !!

THE HUMAN PSYCHE IS OPEN ...
TO THE POSSIBILITIES OF BOTH GOOD AND EVIL
IN MY OPINION, MULTIPLE PERSONALITY DISORDER OCCURS WHEN ONE OF THESE POSSIBILITIES...
SUPPRESSED BY SOCIETAL PRESSURES DECLARES INDEPENDENCE AND BEGINS TO FIGHT TO EXIST
YET REGARDLESS OF HOW DISEASED THE RESULT ...
OR HOW DESTRUCTIVE IT IS TO THE HOST AND THOSE AROUND IT...

.....
THE PERSONA MAKES NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN GOOD OR EVIL."
YOU MARKED THAT PASSAGE.
IS THAT WHAT YOU WANTED ME TO READ?
GRAB
BOOGIE... POP?!
ARE YOU...?!
HEY!

OH... UH... S-SENSEI...
GASP!!!
!!
IGA-RAGHI...?
HONESTLY, SENSEI.
HUNH?
TAKE MY EYES OFF YOU FOR A SECOND AND YOU GO AND TRY SOMETHING
SIGH...
?

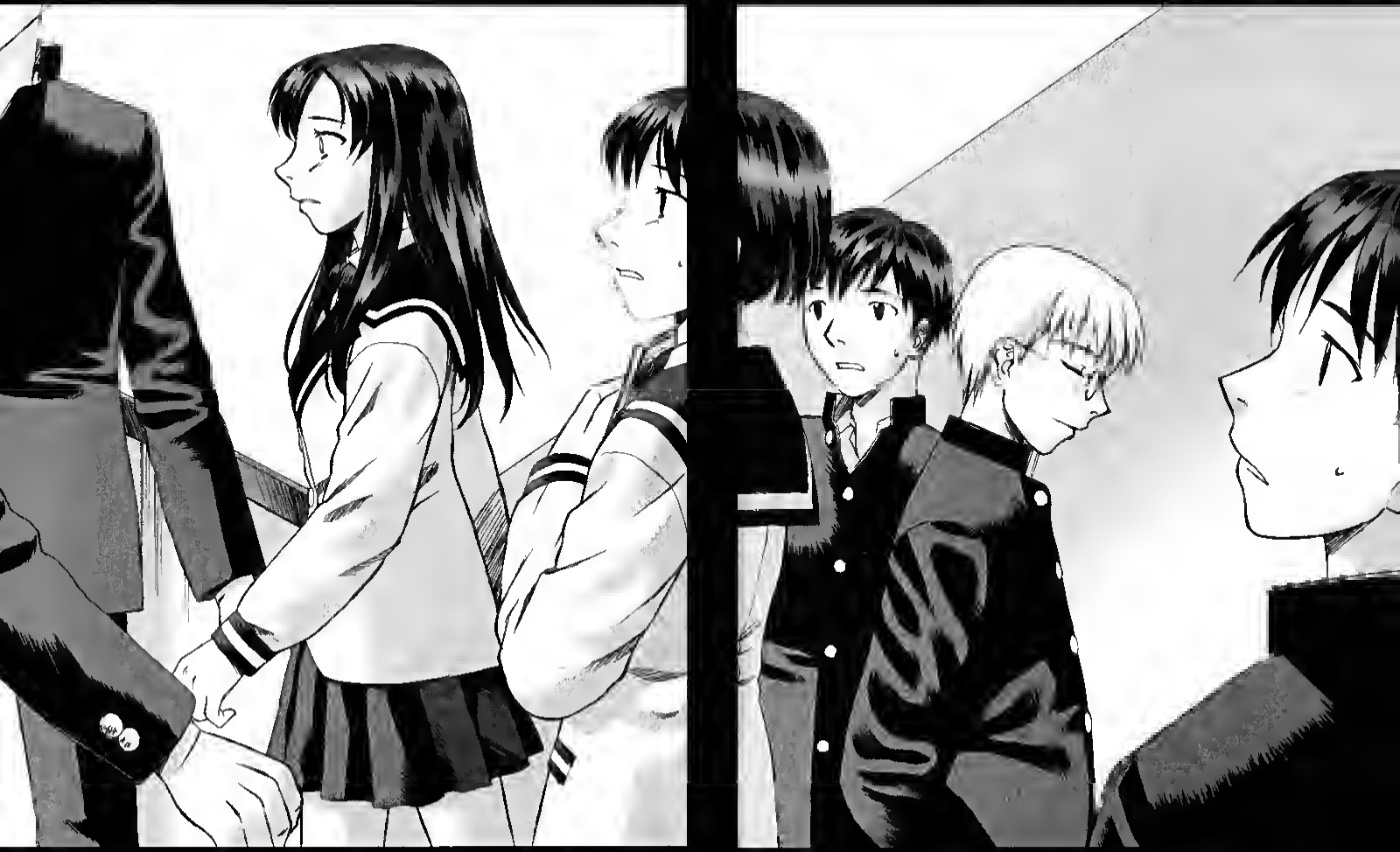
I LOOK LIKE I'M TRYING SOMETHING?
KINDA.
EEP!
ALL RIGHT.
NO, SENSEI. STOP...
YOU'LL MESS UP MY UNIFORM... SENSEI!

ドドド

IT WAS THE LAB! IT EXPLODED!!
SERIOUSLY?!
THAT'S AWESOME!!
STEP ASIDE! LET ME THROUGH!
BUSSLE
BUSSLE
TKK
TKK

YOU'RE A LITTLE LATE.

TOO BAD...



OH MY GOD! I JUST HEARD THERE WERE PEOPLE INSIDE!!
!! GASP !!

WE CALLED IT! THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY!!
WHERE'S THAT AMBU-LANCE?!
OVER HERE! THIS ONE'S STILL CON-SCIOUS!!
WHISPER
WHISPER
GRUMBLE
AUGH ...!
I'VE GOT ANOTHER ONE OVER HERE!!!

MEDIC!
I NEED A MEDIC OVER HERE!!
AKIZUKI !!!

ROBBERY AND HOMICIDE.
HIS PARENTS?
YEAH, BOTH OF 'EM.
POOR THING...

HEY SOMETHIN' WRONG?

WHY SUCH A GLOOMY FACE?

AH...
.....?
!

SEN..
SEI?
ARE...
ARE YOU
CRYING?

SENSEI...
WHAT'S WRONG...
AH!
SLIP
CATCH

I-I CAN'T...
NOT YOU... NOT AGAIN

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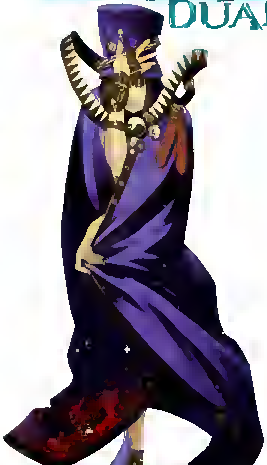

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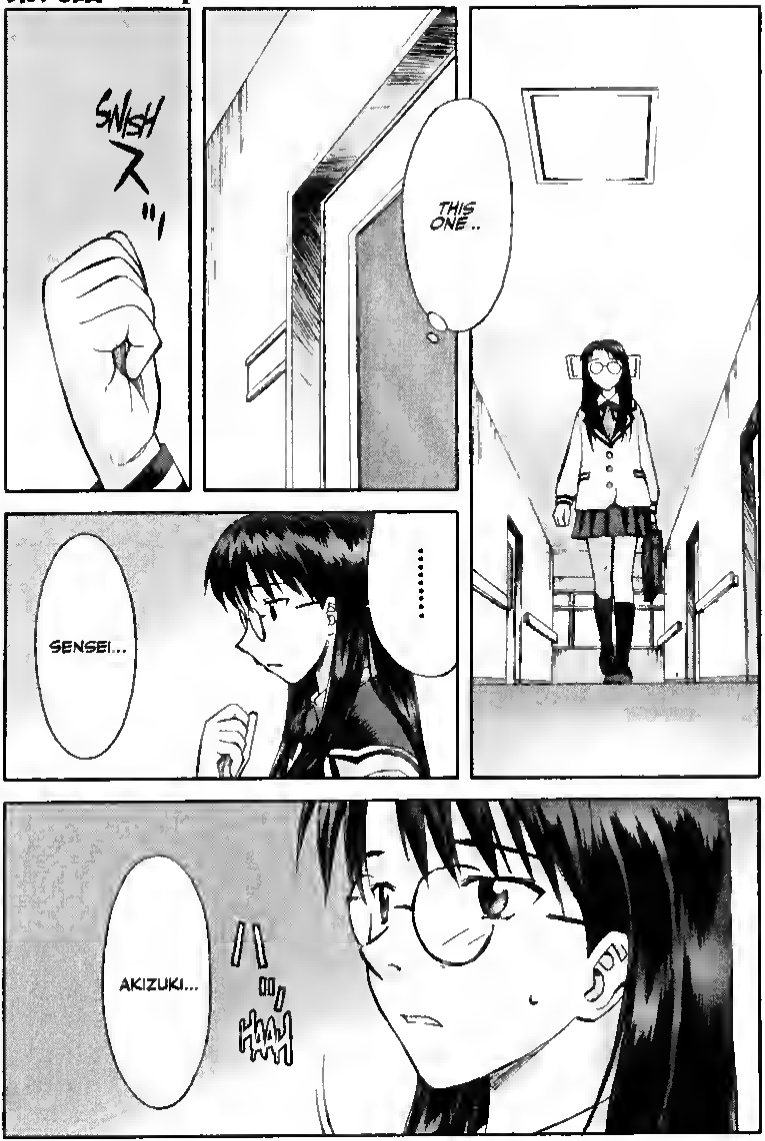
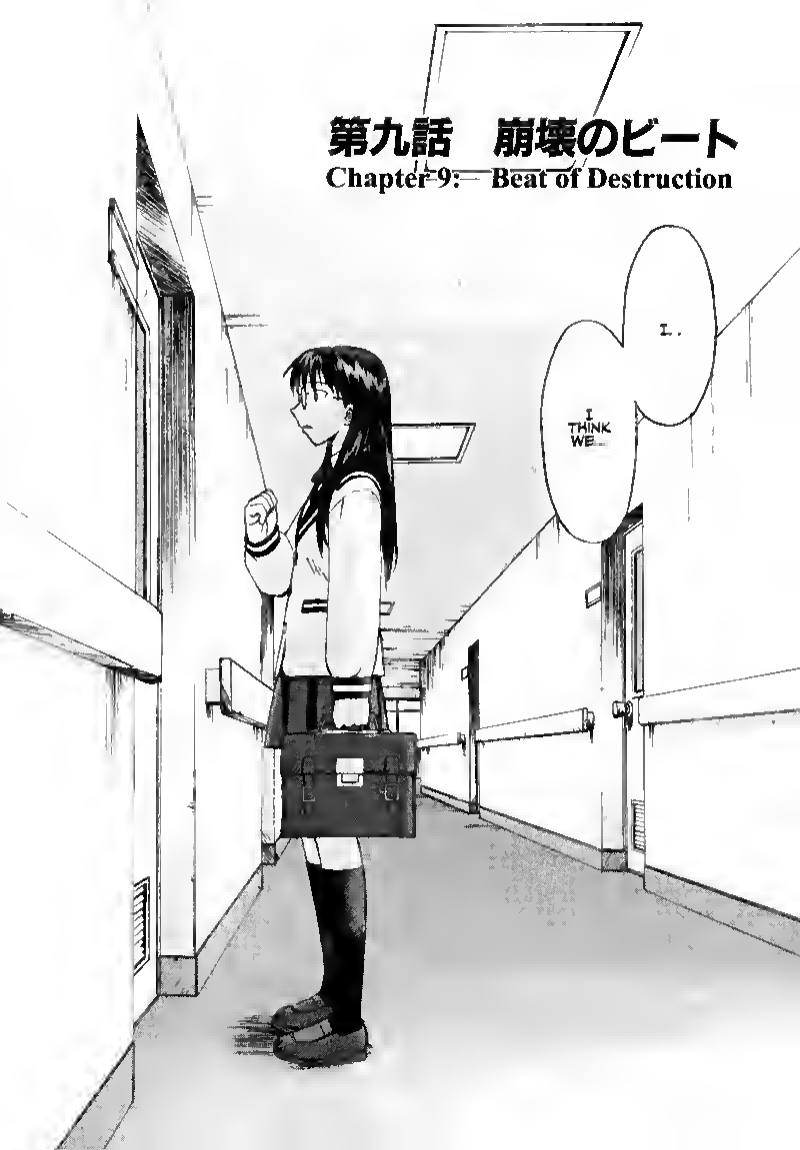
第九話 Chapter 9



第九話　崩壊のビート
Chapter 9: Beat of Destruction



フィ
SQUEAK
EEEK!
WHOOPS!
ドン
THUMP

!
RUNNING IN A HOSPITAL?
AH, S-SORRY, I WASN'T --!
OH...
NAUGHTY CHILD.

!
STROKE
UM...
HEY--
SENSE!?
S-SENSEI
...
IDIOT.
SMACK

THAT'S FOR MAKING ME WORRY
NOOGIE
NOOGIE
NOOGIE
OW OW OW OW OW!!!
WHUMP
S-SENSEI?!
WHA?
.....
W-WORRY?

WHY... WHY AM I HERE, AGAIN?
SAY... SENSEI ...
SO PLEASE, MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME
ALL .. ALL RIGHT
MY STUDENTS OFTEN COME OVER TO VISIT.
THEY ALL SEEM TO FEEL PRETTY *RELAXED* HERE.
CHNK
WHY...

IS THERE.. SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?
...DID I COME WITH HIM?
EH...?
OR WAS THAT JUST MY IMAGI-NATION?
YOU LOOKED AWFULLY DOWNCAST.
IN THE HOSPITAL

N-NO...
IT'S NOTHING, REALLY.
I MEAN... IT'S NOT LIKE I FELT LIKE THAT ABOUT HIM AT FIRST.
HIM?
N-NEVER MIND.
I UNDER-STAND...
THIS CAN BE HARD TO TALK ABOUT.
BUT...
I'VE BEEN ALIVE A *LITTLE* LONGER THAN YOU...
AND I HAVE SOME *RELATED* EXPERIENCES.
FOR EXAMPLE ...

ONCE UPON A TIME...
THAT'S.. NOT GOOD.
WHY?
WELL...
LIKE I SAID...
NOMURA ASKED ME TO FIND OUT HOW YOU FELT
SO IF I GO OUT WITH YOU, THEN--

NOMURA FROM CLASS FOUR?
YEAH. HIM.
WELL...
THAT SUCKS.
SORRY...
I'M JUST NOT INTO HIM.
I...
ONLY CAME BECAUSE YOU ASKED ME, KANO-KUN.
AND FRANKLY, I'M A LITTLE DISAP-POINTED.

.....
SO WHAT HAPPENED?
I WENT OUT WITH HER.
YOU DID? BUT THEN...
YEAH...
HE WAS FURIOUS.
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOIN' DATING HER?!

SHE SAID...
TO TELL YOU...
.....
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE ASKED YOU!!
I HAD NO CHOICE.
SHE LIKED ME BETTER.
AND...
SMACK
AUGH!!

SHE HATES...
PEOPLE LIKE YOU.
THAT'S...
A LITTLE--
REALLY?

IT'S NOT THAT AN UNUSUAL OF A STORY.
BEFORE YOU WORK UP THE NERVE, SHE'S ALREADY GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
IT WAS JUST BAD LUCK, IS ALL.
AND AT THE TIME, I WAS TRYING IT OUT ON A BUNCH OF PEOPLE.
SO, I JUST WANTED TO KNOW ...
?
HOW...
WOULD HE BREAK?

OH, HE BROKE MASTERFULLY.
HELD THE GIRL HOSTAGE IN THE SCIENCE LAB...

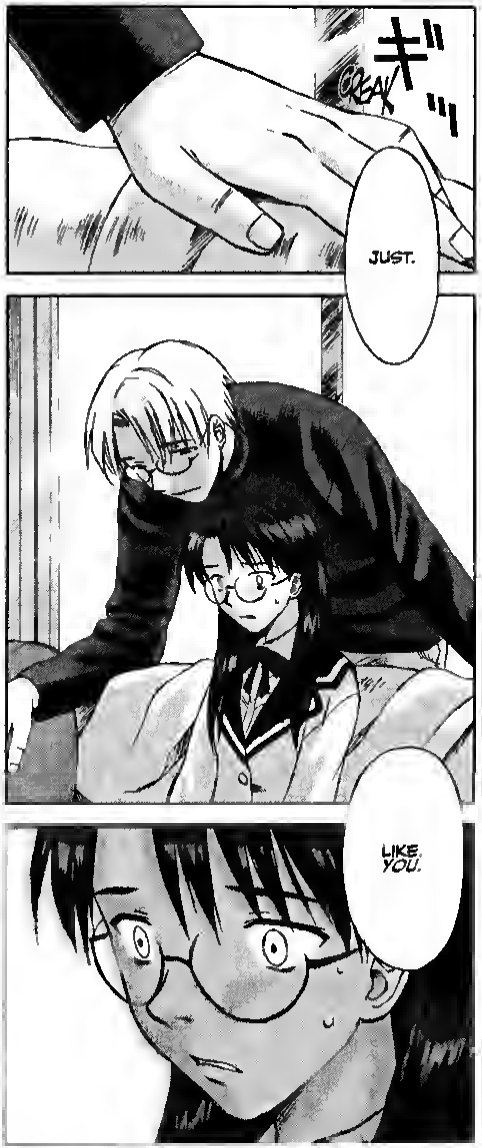
AND TOOK OUT ALL THE TEACHERS AND VARIOUS ONLOOKERS WITH HIM.

AND THEN ..
THERE WAS A LOUD EXPLOSION AND .
THEY'RE FINE. EVERYONE'S RECOVERING.
OH MY GOD...!
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?!
GRAB

BUT YOU JUST SAID THEY...
GOOD?
GOOD.
OH...
WELL, THAT'S SO LIKE YOU.
.....
DO YOU HAVE...
SOME-THING TO TELL ME?
SENSEI...
.....

UM...
THAT'S ALL A LITTLE TOO SURREAL FOR ME.
NO...
IT'S ALMOST LIKE YOU MADE IT UP.
EVERY SINGLE WORD...
WAS TRUE.

SEE, I'D ALREADY FIGURED OUT...
BUT THAT'S---
HAD THE POWER TO DRIVE CERTAIN PEOPLE MAD.
THAT MY VERY WORDS...


LITTLE FAILURES ADD UP...
TILL DISAP-POINTED, THEY GIVE UP
SOMEWHERE IN THEIR HEART THEY KNOW THEY'VE *LOST.*
JUST.
LIKE *YOU.*

NO.
IT'S VERY SMALL.
I DON'T--
BUT I...
RIGHT HERE
SNSN

THE SYMPTOMS OF DESPAIR...
YOU CAN'T HIDE THEM FROM ME.

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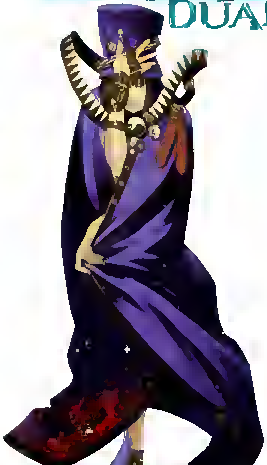

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第十話 Chapter 10

第十話　追憶のハート
Chapter 10: Memories' Heart

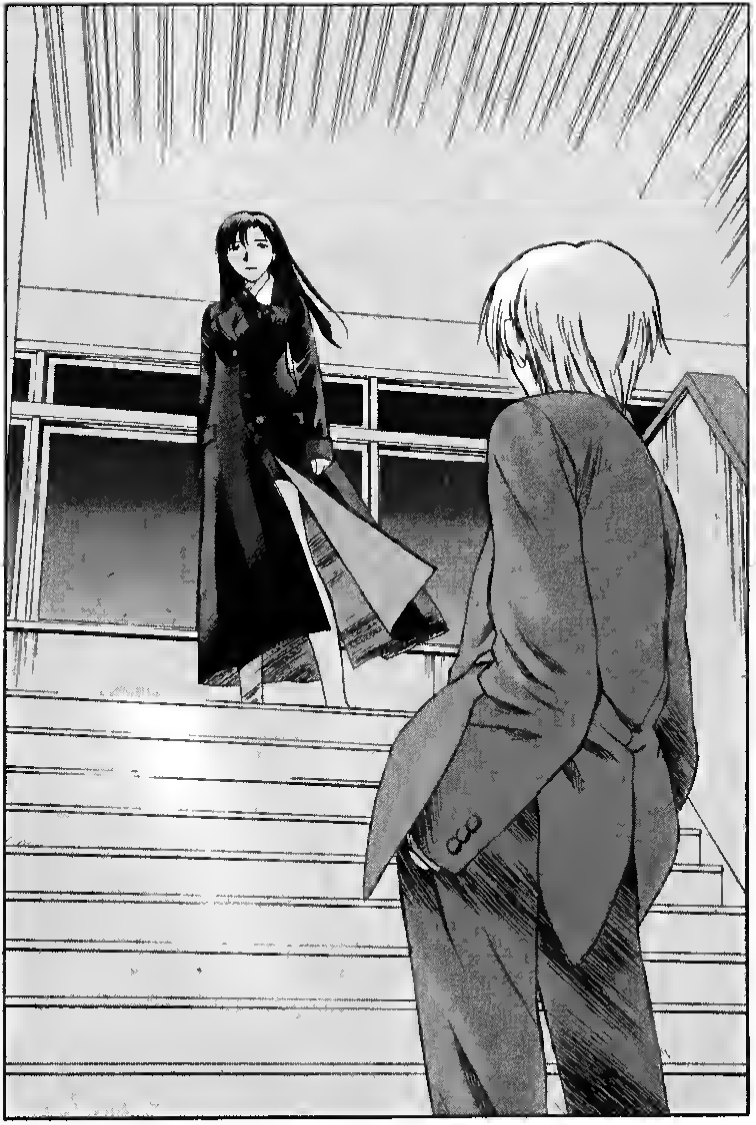
IGARASHI ...
WHY THE LONG FACE?
KA-CLUNK
TAP
TAP
TAP

NO.
I DON'T CRY...
OVER SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
ANOTHER FIGHT WITH YOUR PARENTS?

UH, WHAT'S THIS?
YOU SAID TO GIVE YOU A KEY.
EH...?
BUT I WAS JOKING.
Y-YOU WERE?
WHAT?
THIS IS JUST TOO WEIRD.
ガーン
THEN GIVE IT BACK.
ヒョイ
HELL NO!
I'M TURNING YOUR PLACE INTO MY OWN PERSONAL SANCTUARY!

OKAY
I CAN'T DO MUCH FOR YOU...
SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS JUST SHOW UP ANY TIME.
BUT I'LL SURE LISTEN TO YOU GRUMBLE.
SENSEI ...
HONJOU ...
SENSEI ....!!

SCHOOL IS A GREAT PLACE...
FOR A FINAL SHOWDOWN, ISN'T IT?
ｶｯ!!!



SO...
IT WAS YOU.
I'D HONESTLY FORGOTTEN UNTIL YOU STARTED GETTING IN MY WAY.
AFTER ALL...

YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR LOOK...
SINCE THEN.

YEAH
THIS TIME, I'M HERE...
OF MY OWN FREE WILL.
WHAT DID YOU THINK OF MY LITTLE *STUNT* TODAY?
SAY...
.....

THE TEACHER THAT DIED THE FIRST TIME...
HIS NAME WAS HONJOU, WASN'T IT?
IT WASN'T A PERFECT REENACT-MENT, MUCH TO MY GREAT REGRET.
BUT IT STILL WENT OFF PRETTY WELL.
COLLATERAL FROM A LOSER'S MELTDOWN...
PATHETIC WAY TO DIE.

MNN...
ピンポーン
DING DONG
MMNN?

AH...
MOTOKA-SAN?
THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR SLEEPING THIS LATE EVEN IF IT IS SUNDAY!
ズカ
ズカ
ガチャ
KA-CLUNK
TOO SLOW!!
RATTLE
ガチャ
AH... OWW!! WHAT THE?!!
JESUS! THIS ROOM'S A PIGSTY! DON'T YOU EVER CLEAN UP?!!
ドカ
CRASH
ガチャ
BANG
ドカ
.....

EH?
HERE.
WHOA!
YOU'RE GONNA MAKE SOMETHING FOR ME?
NOW WHY WOULD I COOK IN YOUR HOUSE?
HUNH? B-BUT--
YOU'RE COOKING
ACK?!

HOW'D YOU GET SO GOOD AT COOKING?
LITTLE SNOT.
THANKS.
MMMM, PRETTY GOOD.
I JUST FOLLOWED THE RECIPE.
REALLY?
THAT NEVER WORKS FOR ME
キロ GLARE
UH...
N-NO, I MEAN--!
YOU'RE CARELESS, MOTOKA-SAN.
THAT'S BECAUSE ...

.....
AKI-ZUKI.
HAVE YOU PICKED A SCHOOL YET?
YEAH...
I GAVE MY COUN-SELOR A NAME
OH...
EH?
WELL, HAVE YOU EVER...
THOUGHT ABOUT COMING TO MY SCHOOL?

I'M SURE YOU CAN STILL CHANGE YOUR MIND.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
B...
BUT--
WHAT?
YOU DON'T WANT TO GO TO THE SCHOOL IF I'M THERE?
THAT'S NOT--
THEN GREAT!
IT'S JUST SO SUDDEN--
NO.
YOU'RE COMING.

.....
O-OKAY.
MOTOKA-SAN..?
MM?
WHY DO YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT ME?
YOU THINK I CARE ABOUT YOU?
WELL... YEAH.
YOU'RE ALWAYS COMING OVER LIKE THIS
AND YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER LISTENS TO ME.
YOU MEAN, ABOUT HIM?
SQUEAK
WATER
CREAK

ARE YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF ME AGAIN?
HEY...
WHO KNOWS, MAYBE I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU?
BUT FOR SOME WEIRD REASON, I BELIEVE YOU... AND HIM.
I DON'T KNOW WHY. IT'S JUST SUCH A WEIRD STORY.
AND QUIT SPRAWLING OUT ON MY BED LIKE THAT.
DON'T BE STUPID
YOU WANT TO JUMP ME?
THEN WHAT?
GO AHEAD.
WELL... N-NO, NOT REALLY.
WHAT? I LOOK BAD?

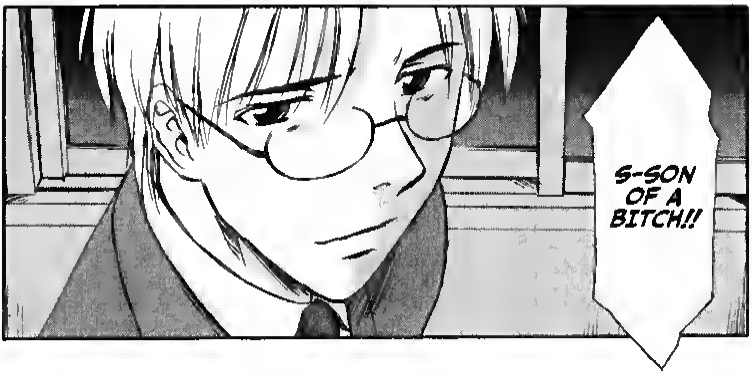
LIVE UP TO IT.
YOU'VE GOT SUCH POTENTIAL
I'D BEAT YOU RIGHT UP!
I WANT TO SEE YOU TEN YEARS FROM NOW.
YEP.
ROLL
BUT...
.....
IT IS TRUE. I DO LIKE YOU.
BUT MOTOKA-SAN...
YOU GOT A LOTTA NERVE!!
WH-WHAT WAS THAT?!
AUGH! I-I WAS KIDDING!
!!
MUTTER
YOU'LL BE OLD
IN TEN YEARS...

SO...
ARE YOU GOING TO KILL ME NOW?
NO..
YOU COULDN'T DO IT THEN...
YOU CAN'T DO IT NOW.

THIS TIME, I'M DRIVEN...
BY FESTERING RAGE.
REALLY?
.....
SORRY TO BREAK IT TO YOU...
WOOSH
BUT YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING.

KOGA...
CHAN?!
SQUEEZE
ギュ

!?
GRAB
ガシ


S-SON OF A BITCH!!

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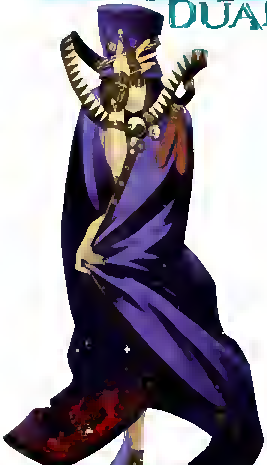

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第十一話 Chapter 11

第十一話　負け犬のハート
Chapter 11:　Losers' Heart

WAS THIS HONESTLY THE BEST YOU COULD DO?
SUCH A SHAME.
I THOUGHT YOU'D PLAY THINGS SMARTER.
BUT APPARENTLY ...
I OVERESTIMATED YOU
KLANG
THAT'S TOO BAD.

SO...
YOU'VE CAUGHT ME. NOW WHAT?
IT WOULD BE EASY...
FOR ME TO BREAK YOU NOW. BUT...

NO...
UNH!
THAT *THING* YOU USED TO BE...
BEFORE I DO, I THOUGHT I'D ASK...
GRAB
WHY DID YOU...?
BECAUSE...
WHY DID IT *CHANGE* ITS FORM AND SHOW ITSELF BEFORE AGAIN

YOU ARE...
AN ENEMY OF THE WORLD.
.....!
PEOPLE LIKE YOU...
DRAG HIM BACK INTO EXISTENCE.
NO MATTER WHAT..
YOU DO TO ME...

I SEE
A DIFFERENT POSSIBILITY HAS TAKEN OVER!
CERTAINLY.. IF PEOPLE LIKE ME CAN EXIST...
I CAN'T DENY THAT POSSIBILITY.
VERY INTERESTING.
IN THAT CASE, LET'S WAIT...
FOR THE POSSIBILITY YOU MENTIONED.

BOOGIE POP?
WHAT'S THAT?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT ...
YOU'RE A BOY. YOU WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.
?
HOW DO I PUT THIS...? IT'S A KIND OF AN URBAN LEGEND.
DOES THIS...
HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT WEIRD OUTFIT?
BINGO!

THE POINT IS THAT YOU DRESS LIKE THAT AND IF YOU GET SEEN, IT'LL JUST GET BURIED AS A RUMOR.
THAT'S FINE!
THAT EASILY?
BUT IT IS WEIRD.
I WORKED HARD ON THAT, AND THIS IS THE THANKS I GET?
AND HEY!
BUT, MOTOKA-SAN...
EVEN IF HE IS FIGHTING THE ENEMIES OF THE WORLD...
I DON'T HAVE ANY REAL REASON TO FIGHT THEM.
WHY ME?
WHY...

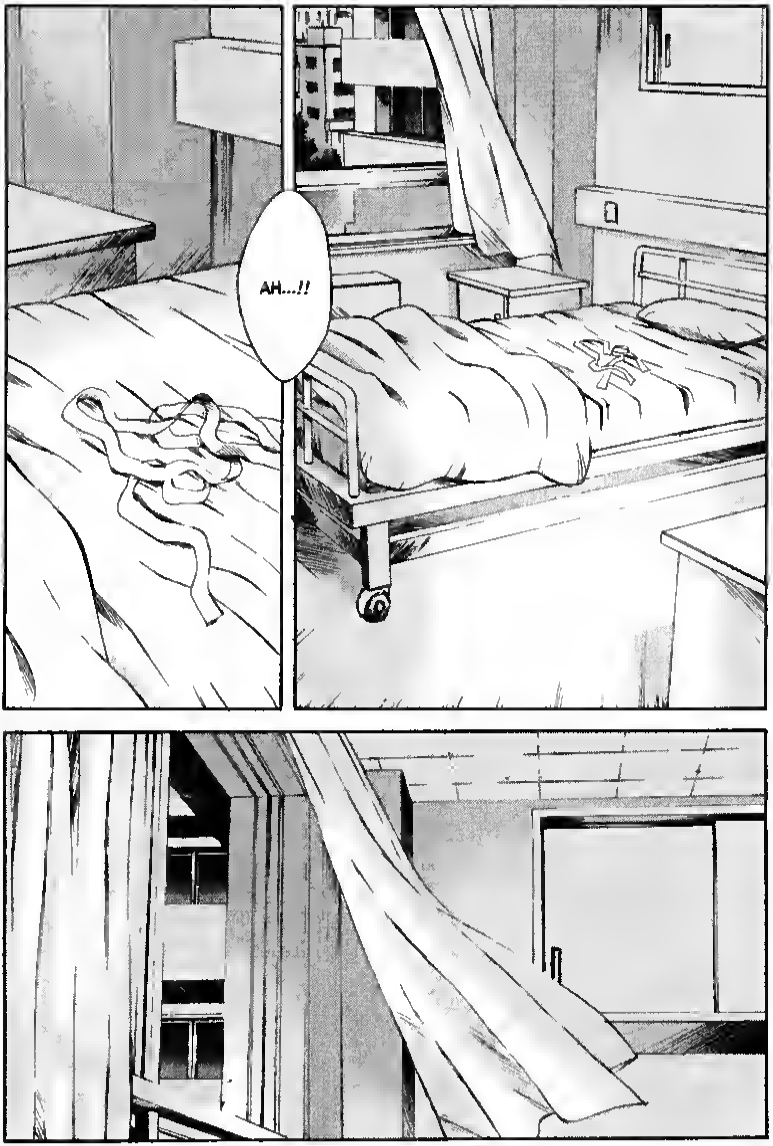
A REASON?
YOU ALREADY HAVE ONE.
!?

AH--
SQUEAK
IT WAS THAT DAY...
YOU SENSED THEIR PRESENCE...

WHICH BROUGHT ME FORTH.
AND THIS TIME...
I HAVE A REASON TOO.

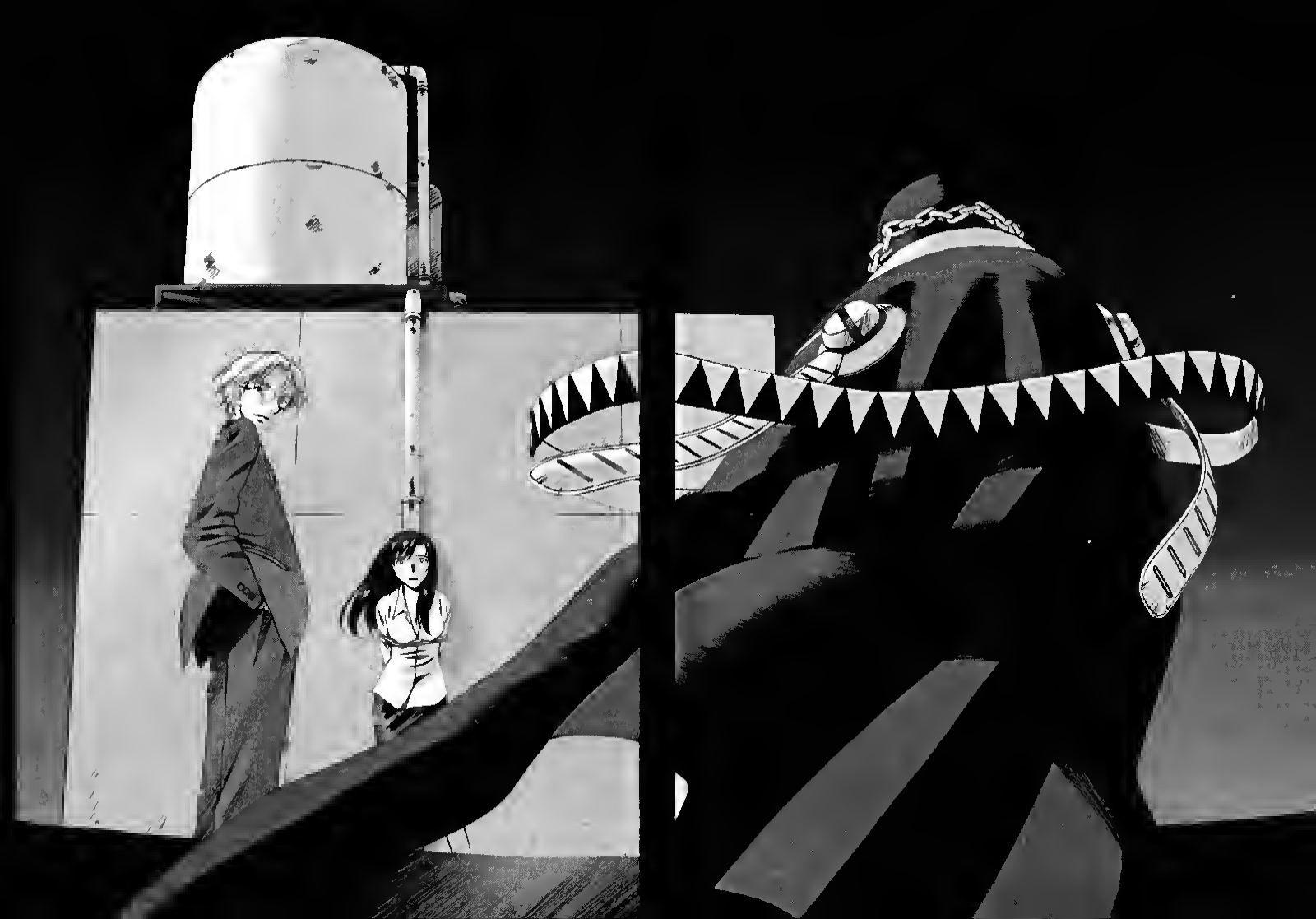
IF YOU'LL ALLOW A VERY HUMAN WAY OF PUTTING THINGS...
I WANT TO AVENGE ONE OF MY KIND.
I WANT...
TO FINISH THIS.
IS THAT NOT ENOUGH FOR YOU?

AKIZUKI-SAN?!


AH...!!

I THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE ENOUGH.
.....
WHY DID YOU COME HERE *ALONE*?
WELL...
THAT'S WHY I PROBABLY WOUND UP LIKE *THIS*.
NO.

THAT'S A LIE.
YOU ACTUALLY THOUGHT ...
WON'T BE ABLE TO DEFEAT ME EITHER.
THAT THE POSSIBILITY YOU MENTIONED...
SO I GUESS YOU'D BETTER TAKE ME OUT YOURSELF.

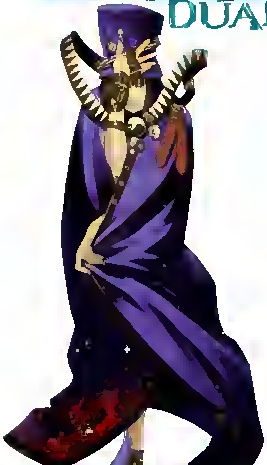


WELL, SEEING YOU FACE TO FACE...
AH, RIGHT ON TIME.
I SEE THAT THE VESSEL IS CLEARLY DIFFER-ENT...
BUT THE *FEELING'S* THE SAME.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE...
BUT I WILL SAY THIS...
IF YOU'RE THE SAME THING THAT WAS IN HER.

WHAM!
CAN NEVER WIN.
THEN YOU...

Boogiepop
DUAL



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BLOOD ...?
ㅁㅏㅋ
ㅁㅏㅋ
MY BODY ...
IT WON'T MOVE.
NO...
I HIT MYSELF ?!!
ㅁㅏㅋ
WHAT HAPPENED?
DID HE HIT ME?

最終話
復活のビート Part2
Last Chapter:
The Beat Restored Part 2
SENSEI...
?!

ARE THESE ...
SENSEI'S MEMORIES ?
NO...
THIS IS THE BUBBLE'S ?
INJURED LIKE THAT...
YOU CAN'T BEAT ME
RIGHT...
THIS IS A SHARED MEMORY.
THIS IS WHAT SENSEI'S BUBBLE REMEMBERS!

JUST AS I THOUGHT.
AKIZUKI ...!!
NOT EVEN WORTH THE WAIT.
ONCE A LOSER...
ALWAYS A LOSER.

AS LONG AS YOU RETAIN THE MEMORY...
OF HAVING LOST BEFORE OR OF A MOMENT OF WEAKNESS...
WHERE YOU THINK YOU MIGHT NOT WIN...
OF MY POWER?
NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE NATURE...
THEN..
YOU CAN'T.

KOGA-CHAN!!
SWISH
THIS GIRL TOO...
HAS A WOUNDED HEART.
AND THAT IS YOUR FAULT.
!?

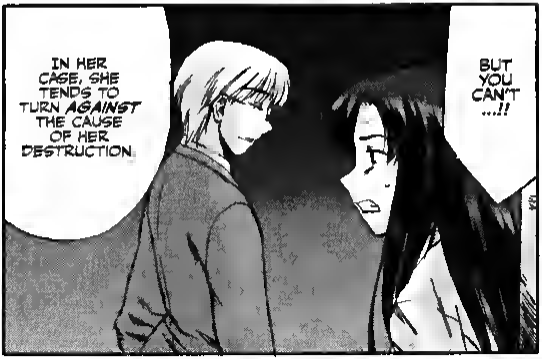
IT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN STRONG ENOUGH TO CALL LOVE...
BUT YOU TWO SHARE A BOND THAT EVEN THIS GIRL CAN'T CRACK.
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOU AND THAT BOY.
AND WHY IS THAT?!
THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT ALL THE MORE TRAGIC.
THIS GIRL WAS SAVED BY YOUR LITTLE PET...
IT LEAVES A TINY PAIN INSIDE. IT'S TOO SMALL TO BE CALLED HEARTBREAK...
BUT TO ME...?
AND YOU'RE SOMEONE THAT SHE CAN NEVER HOPE TO COMPETE WITH.

WELL, AS YOU CAN SEE..
WHAT ARE YOU ..?!
BEHAVIOR AFTER BREAKING VARIES.
SOME DIRECT IT INTERNALLY.

THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF REAC-TIONS.
AKIZUKI KUN.

AND THERE ARE SOME THAT DIRECT IT TOWARDS OTHERS

.....


IN HER CASE, SHE TENDS TO TURN AGAINST THE CAUSE OF HER DESTRUCTION.
BUT YOU CAN'T ...!!

YOU CAN STOP HER, CAN'T YOU?!
HE CAN'T FIGHT ANYMORE!
THE BATTLE'S OVER!!
STOP HER!!!
.....
WON.
YOU'VE ...

RIGHT?
!
SO WHAT?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BEG ...
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST LOOK LIKE YOU MEAN IT.
PLEASE...
L-LET HIM GO.
LET... AKIZUKI GO.

OH, AND...
I FORGOT TO MENTION THIS...
BUT ONCE BROKEN, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO CONTROL THEM UNTIL THEIR GOAL HAS BEEN ACHIEVED.
WHISH
YES, NOW THAT'S THE WAY...
A LOSER SHOULD LOOK.
I'M SORRY. BUT THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO.
SQUEEZE
SO JUST SHUT UP AND WATCH YOUR LITTLE ONE GET SLICED TO RIBBONS.
CLANK
AAH...!!

AKIZUKI!!
BUT DON'T WORRY ...
YOU'RE NEXT.
DAMN IT!
HELPLESS AGAIN...!
LET GO OF ME...
YOU PIECE OF SHIT!

!!
SENSEI

DON'T...
GIVE UP.
HE GETS INSIDE ...
OLD WOUNDS OF THE HEART
INSIDE PEOPLE'S WEAKNESS
AND DRIVES THEM MAD.

HE FOUND A WAY INSIDE CRACKS IN EACH OF OUR BUBBLES
BUT...
MOTOKA-SAN
IF YOU BELIEVE IN ME...
THEN...
I WILL NEVER ...
LOSE TO HIM!

MOTO-KA-SAN...
THIS MAN...
THIS MAN TOOK SOMEONE IMPORTANT AWAY FROM YOU.
WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH HIM?
.....
BEAT...
BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF HIM!!

HOW CAN YOU SAY...
HMPH.
YOU WON'T LOSE?
SWISH
LOOK AT YOURSELF
TAP
YOU'RE SO BADLY BEATEN THAT YOU CAN BARELY STAND.

HOW CAN YOU EVER HOPE TO DEFEAT ME?

I WILL NEVER LOSE!!
TO SOMEONE LIKE YOU
LIKE I SAID...

ARE YOU OKAY?
SENSEI ...
SWISH!!!
SENSEI ...

IT'S OVER.
EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT NOW.
.....!
BLINK
HE DIDN'T HURT YOU, DID HE?
IDIOT..
Flush
YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO TALK LIKE THAT.
OH. IT'S NOT OVER YET..

!!
YOU'VE...
LOST.

TOO BAD.
NO...!!
THIS SEEMS LIKE THE PERFECT ENDING.
HOW CRUEL, SENSEI.
WOOSH
!?
YOU'RE ALREADY GOING...
WITH ANOTHER WOMAN?

SHOVE
DASH
!!
AHH!
GRAB
THUMP

!!
IDIOT
...!!

CLANG
AKI--!!
SHIVER
SHIVER
GRAB
HOLD ON TIGHT! I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!!
S-SEN-SEIIII!
I-I DON'T THINK I CAN...!!
IDIOT!!!
YOU FALL OFF OF THAT AND I'LL KILL YOU!!

SWISH
TWITCH

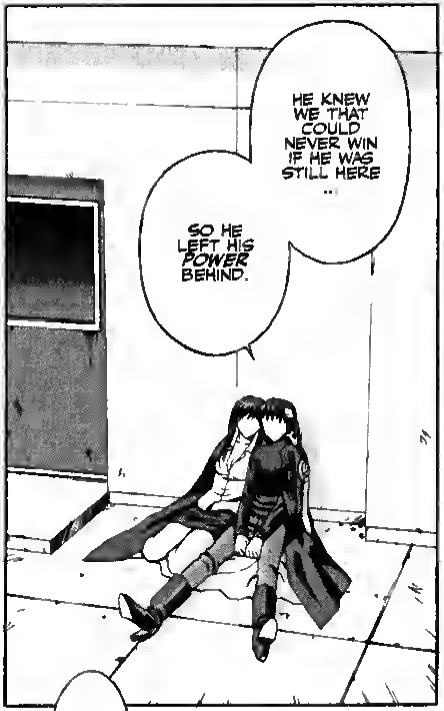
DO WHAT YOU WANT WITH ME.
IT DOESN'T MATTER.

CHING

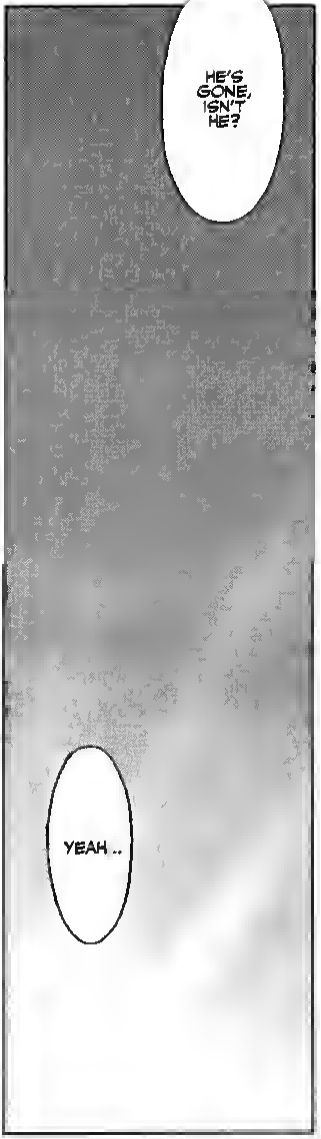
.....
SENSEI ...?!

EENNH
THWACK!
WHEW
TWITCH
TWITCH
STAY THAT WAY, YOU BASTARD.
THWACK
THWACK

STAY THAT WAY THE REST OF YOUR LIFE
OH WELL, GUESS HE CAN'T HEAR ME


HE KNEW WE THAT COULD NEVER WIN IF HE WAS STILL HERE ..
SO HE LEFT HIS POWER BEHIND.

GUESS SO.


HE'S GONE, ISN'T HE?
YEAH ..

THANK YOU...
TAKAYA.

.....

SENSEI...?
MM?
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME...
YOU'VE EVER CALLED ME THAT
OH?
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?

BOOGIEPOP
DUAL

END

The Embryo Saga

Split in a similar manner as the *VS Imaginator* Saga, the *Embryo* novels are named after a mysterious virus that infects a portable game console, where anyone exposed to Embryo soon develops mysterious abilities and powers.

Honami Hiroshi's console was infected by Embryo after the owner decided against passing it to Pearls Diamonds—an organization that rivals the Towa Organization and works to undermine it. While Hiroshi doesn't develop abilities, both his sister Akiko (who plays host to the Imaginator later in the series) and her would-be boyfriend, Takashiro Tohru develop strange gifts.

The novels also introduce the character of Fortissimo—believed by many to be the Towa Organization's most powerful composite human because of his ability to separate atoms and cause people to disintegrate—who has been charged to destroy Embryo at all costs. Fortissimo crosses paths with the Tohru—whose power allows him to see lines representing danger—and gives him the name "Inazuma" after the Japanese god of thunder.

The book climaxes with a fight between the two in a shopping mall rigged with explosives and the timely intervention of Boogiepop, who transfers Embryo into a large metal cross, which reappears later in the *Beat's Discipline* series.

The Art of Kouji Ogata

From portraits of a solemn Boogiepop to an eerie image of a naked young girl with a single rose growing out of her chest, *The Art of Kouji Ogata: Boogiepop and Others* is the must-have import for fans of all things Ogata. Divided into two sections with the first half covering the initial nine *Boogiepop* novels and the second focusing on Kouji Ogata's other various works such as *Doll* and *Wizardry*, the deluxe hardcover artbook compiles a large multitude of original painted art pieces and black and white illustrations that Ogata has been commissioned to create over the years. In addition to plenty of character illustrations and pencil sketches, the book also includes images used to illustrate the various *Boogiepop* soundtracks and other assorted goodies.

BOOGIEPOP
The Ultimate Guide PART 4

Welcome to the final installment of *Boogiepop: The Ultimate Guide*, where we will take a look at the remaining novels and assorted side-stories in the *Boogiepop* Universe, as well as ponder the future of the franchise.

by Lesley Smith

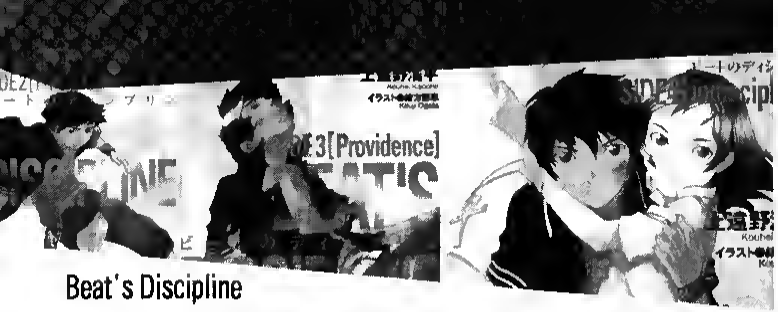
Boogiepop Missing

1999 was a busy year for MediaWorks and Kouhei Kadono. *Boogiepop Missing* was the seventh installment in the series and the third *Boogiepop* novel to be released that year, focusing on the rise and fall of an evolved human named Kigawa Tosuke.

Although in hiding, Kigawa soon gains the attention of none other than Teratsuki Kyouchiro—the Towa mogul from *Boogiepop Overdrive* who helped to fund the organization's various operations. After trying Kigawa's peppermint ice cream, Teratsuki helps him to start up a chain of ice cream shops called The Peppermint Wizard. Yet The Peppermint Wizard is not just a simple ice cream parlor; it is one of various plans created by the disillusioned Teratsuki shortly before his death.

As well as the shop itself, Kigawa's ice cream is also far from ordinary, and its ability to take away people's pain soon leads to his meteoric rise in local society. But soon, his unrivaled popularity becomes too much for the Towa Organization to ignore.

While primarily about the events of Kigawa's rise and fall, *Boogiepop Missing* has cameos by several familiar faces, and it introduces several new characters, such as Furukita, an actress and idol who has been assigned by Towa to watch Kigawa's ice cream van, and Kusunoki Rei, a book and teacher at the school where Orihata Aya (of the *VS Imaginator* novels) is a student.



Beat's Discipline

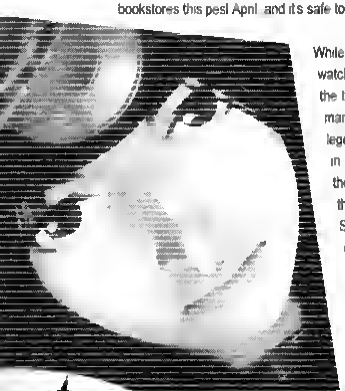
The *Boogiepop* universe is also home to a special four-volume side-story series called *Beat's Discipline* which pulls its name from its central character—a Towa agent named Pete Beat. For many, this series acts as an excellent crossover for fans as the four volumes have managed to feature almost every character seen in Kadono's other *Boogiepop* novels. In fact, the first volume alone has an impressive list of cameos, including Fortissimo, Mo Murder, Asukai Jin, "Rains no More" and the Peppermint Wizard.

Like many of the Towa Organization's agents, Pete Beat is also a composite human, and his unique gift is the ability to sense the body's beats. This allows him to overrride his own and move at super-human speeds, or by manipulating the beats in others, to freeze people on the spot. Despite specializing in surveillance, Pete is assigned a mission by Fortissimo to retrieve an item code-named "Carmen."

This assignment leads to him to a high school where he comes across a psychic girl that he can't read. Ultimately, this encounter causes him to become disenchanted with the Towa Organization, which means only one thing... they want him dead.

The Future

As you can undoubtedly guess, the *Boogiepop* series is far from over. In fact, Kouhei Kadono is still writing novels about Shinyo Academy's resident *shinigami*. The latest novel, *Boogiepop Intolerance: The Ark of Orpheus*, hit Japanese bookstores this past April, and it's safe to say that this book—the fourteenth in the series—will not be the last.



While fans in North America have been able to watch the *Boogiepop Phantom* anime series and the live action *Boogiepop and Others* movie, 2006 marks the first time that any of Kouhei Kadono's legendary novels or manga have been available in English. This means that fans will now have the opportunity to get to know Boogiepop, the Fire Witch, and all the other residents of Shinyo Academy in the way that they were originally envisioned—as novels.

BOOGIEPOP
The Ultimate Guide PART 4

Boogiepop Paradox

Boogiepop Paradox is actually a prequel set two years prior to *Boogiepop and Others*, but it also ties in with events which take place in both *Boogiepop Returns: VS Imaginator Part 1* and *Part 2*. Kinma Nagi has returned to Junior High after her spell in the hospital and has begun investigating a string of strange incidents involving comas. The school has been infiltrated by the Towa Organization's agent Kurenai Akemi, better known as "Rains on Friday" and in *Beat's Discipline*, as "Rains no More."

Mixing supernatural abilities with zombies, *Boogiepop Paradox* also introduces Akemi's boyfriend, Uchimura Morito, who possesses an ability he names "Fail Safe." This ability allows him to avoid death by shielding himself with the deaths of others, such as Towa agent Mrs. Robinson. As a result, his unfortunate victims become mind-controlled zombies.

In a tie-in with the earlier *Boogiepop* novels, it transpires that Morito's abilities were given to him by the Imaginator. Akemi attempts to kill him, and events peak in a Towa Organization building used to train agents that is filled with deadly synthetic trees that fire a deadly sap at trespassers. In the end, Boogiepop returns to put an end to him, and in turn sets in motion the events that readers experience in the *VS Imaginator* novels.

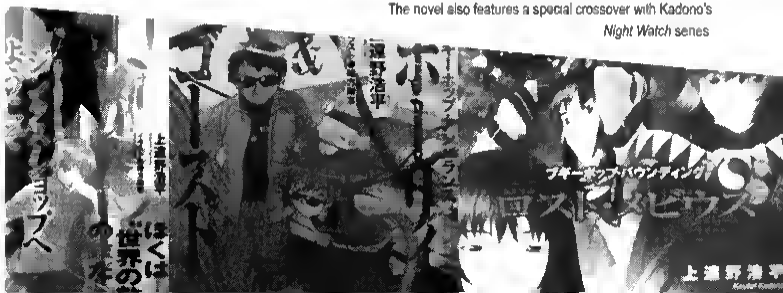
Holy & Ghost, Jinx Shop, and Lost Möbius

This trio of books are often mistakenly labeled as side-stories, but they are actually direct continuations of the saga. Best labeled as a crime-caper, *Holy & Ghost: Boogiepop Unbalance* sees the introduction of an animated weasel known as "Slim Shape," as well as a pair of delinquent teenagers who get mixed up in his plan to steal a weapon—code-named "Rock Bottom"—that was hidden by Teratsuki Kyouichiro.

On the other hand, *Welcome to Jinx Shop: Boogiepop Staccato* returns to an exploration of the Towa Organization and its agenda to secretly take over the world. It also introduces Towa's mysterious leader, code-named "Oxygen," and sheds some light on the mystery surrounding how the organization actually works.

Boogiepop Bounding: Lost Mobius, published in April 2005, sees the return of Onhata Aya, following a boy consumed with exacting revenge on Boogiepop. His intense hatred of Shinyo Academy's elusive shinigami is slowly eating him up, eventually leaving behind only a shelled husk. It is because of this that the pair become lost in a strange world called "Kiba no Ato," where they are soon joined by a mysterious child named Brick.

The novel also features a special crossover with Kadono's *Night Watch* series.



BOOGIEPOP
FRANCHISE TIMELINE

February 1998	Boogiepop and Others (Novel 1)
August 1998	Boogiepop Returns: VS Imaginator Part 1 (Novel 2)
	Boogiepop Returns: VS Imaginator Part 2 (Novel 3)
December 1998	Boogiepop in the Mirror: Pandora (Novel 4)
February 1999	Boogiepop Overdrive: Heartbreaker II (Novel 5)
May 1999	Boogiepop at Dawn (Novel 6)
August 1999	Boogiepop Missing: Peppermint Wizard (Novel 7)
December 1999	Boogiepop Countdown: The Embryo 1st Half (Novel 8)
January 2000	Boogiepop Phantom (Anime) airs on Japanese TV
February 2000	Boogiepop Wicked: The Embryo 2nd Half (Novel 9)
	Boogiepop Phantom OST (CD) released in Japan
March 2000	Boogiepop and Others (Movie) premiers in Japan
	Boogiepop: Music Inspired by Boogiepop and Others (CD)
April 2000	Boogiepop Dual: Losers' Circus Volume 1 (Manga)
December 2000	Boogiepop Dual: Losers' Circus Volume 2 (Manga)
February 2001	Boogiepop Paradox: Heartless Red (Novel 10)
	Boogiepop Doesn't Laugh Volume 1 (Manga)
September 2001	Boogiepop Unbalance: Holy & Ghost (Novel 11)
March 2002	Beat's Discipline (Side 1): Exile
December 2002	Boogiepop Doesn't Laugh Volume 2 (Manga)
March 2003	Boogiepop Staccato: Welcome to Jinx Shop (Novel 12)
August 2003	Beat's Discipline (Side 2): Fracture
September 2004	Beat's Discipline (Side 3): Providence
April 2005	Boogiepop Bounding: Lost in Moebius (Novel 13)
	Beat's Discipline (Side 4): Indiscipline
April 2006	Boogiepop Intolerance: The Ark of Orpheus (Novel 14)

JAPANESE HONORIFICS GUIDE

To ensure that all character relationships appear as they were originally intended, all character names have been kept in their original Japanese name order with family name first and given name second. For copyright reasons, creator names appear in standard English name order.

In addition to preserving the original Japanese name order, Seven Seas is committed to ensuring that honorifics—polite speech that indicates a person's status or relationship towards another individual—are retained within this book. Politeness is an integral facet of Japanese culture and we believe that maintaining honorifics in our translations helps bring out the same character nuances as seen in the original work.

The following are some of the more common honorifics you may come across while reading this and other books.

-san – The most common of all honorifics, it is an all-purpose suffix that can be used in any situation where politeness is expected. Generally seen as the equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs., etc.

-sama – This suffix is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect upon an individual.

-dono – Stemming from the word "tono," meaning "lord," "-dono" signifies an even higher level than "-sama," and confers the utmost respect.

-kun – This suffix is commonly used at the end of boys' names to express either familiarity or endearment. It can also be used when addressing someone younger than oneself or of a lower status.

-chan – Another common honorific. This suffix is mainly used to express endearment towards girls, but can also be used when referring to little boys or even pets. Couples are also known to use the term amongst each other to convey a sense of cuteness and intimacy.

Sempai – This title is used towards one's senior or "superior" in a particular group or organization. "Sempai" is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to upperclassmen as "sempai," though it is also commonly said by employees when addressing fellow employees who hold seniority in the workplace.

Kouhai – This is the exact opposite of "sempai," and is used to refer to underclassmen in school, junior employees at the workplace, etc.

Sensei – Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

Boogiepop DUAL Losers' Circus

VOLUME 2 of 2

art by Masayuki Takano concept by Kouhei Kadono

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Boogiepop Dual Losers' Circus Vol 2
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ISBN 1-933164-31-X

Printed in Canada

First printing: October 2006

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About the Creator

Born in 1968, Kouhei Kadono grew up uncertain about his direction in life. He spent a considerable portion of his early years frittering away his youth before somehow ending up writing novels.

In 1997, Kadono-sensei's first *Boogiepop* novel, *Boogiepop and Others*, took First Place in the Media Works Dengeki Game Novel Contest. Early the following year, the novel was released to widespread acclaim and ignited the Japanese "light novel" (young adult) trend. Since that time, Kadono-sensei has written thirteen *Boogiepop* novels and several related works, such as the *Beat's Discipline* short story collections and the two *Boogiepop* manga series entitled *Boogiepop Doesn't Laugh* and *Boogiepop Dual*. In its entirety, the *Boogiepop* series has seen over two million copies in print and spawned a live action movie and a hit anime series.

In addition to the *Boogiepop* universe, Kadono-sensei's body of literary work includes a wide array of fantasy and mystery novels such as the *Jiken*, *Soul Drop*, *Limited World* and *Night Watch* series.

About the Artist

Mesayuki Takano is a manga-ka whose body of work includes such series as *Cronos Haze*, *Boogiepop Dual* and his current ongoing series, *Blood Alone*.

In the world of animation, Takano-sensei has provided original mechanical designs for the Gonzo anime series *Full Metal Panic*. Many of these same designs were later collected and published as part of the resource book *Full Metal Panic! The Anime Mission*.

Takano-sensei can be found on the web at